

Interview Summary

Person(s) Interviewed: Enrique Manzanilla, Director, Superfund Division, EPA Region 9

Interviewers: Mary-Kay Lynch, Allyn Stern

Date: November 30, 2015

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Enrique Manzanilla was interviewed on November 30, 2015, as part of an internal EPA After-Action review of the Agency's response to the release at Gold King Mine in Colorado on August 5, 2015. Enrique directs the office responsible for the Region 9 response and the regional coordination and communication with the Navajo Nation.

Synopsis of interview

General Observations and Recommendations.

(b) (5) DPP
[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

(b) (5) DPP
[REDACTED]

Notification

- Enrique learned about the release on August 6, 2015 in the late afternoon. It was at that time he was told about the trajectory of the plume and that it appeared to be heading toward the Navajo Nation. His staff had been notified a little earlier and there had also been an earlier EOC group email, (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED].
- Region 9 notified the Navajo on August 6th, a couple hours after the Region received notification from Region 8. Harry Allen made the initial notification on August 6th by email to the Navajo Nation Superfund program and also sent a notice from La Plata County to alert the Navajo that the County was temporarily closing the Animus River. (b) (5) DPP [REDACTED]

- Email notification was followed up by a phone conversation with Dr. Benn on the morning of August 7th. By that time, it was clearer that the plume was likely to enter the Navajo Nation. In this conversation, Enrique asked the Navajo to deploy.

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Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command/Unified Area Command Structure

- Region 9 set up an Incident Command Center in Farmington, New Mexico. The Navajo were not in the Incident Command in Durango, but were part of the Incident Command in Farmington for the first two weeks. Region 6 also operated out of Farmington. By approximately August 18, the Navajo were no longer staffing the Farmington, NM Incident Command.
- Subsequent to that time, the Navajo set up their own command post in Window Rock. EPA had a liaison presence at the Navajo command post beginning approximately 8/12 or 8/13. EPA staffed this with fairly senior managers.

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Data and Information Management


- The Navajo Nation conducted some early sampling that became the baseline and served as before-plume background sampling.

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